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The London Peace Congress.

The London Peace Congress, which was looked forward to with exceptional interest, has come and gone and built its section into the rapidly growing structure of the world's peace. An extended account of the proceedings appears elsewhere in this issue.

The Congress, in many respects, resembled all the other recent International Peace Conventions. There was the same delay and confusion, caused by differences of language and of methods of transacting business. There was necessarily a good deal of threshing over of old straw in the discussions and resolutions, for the great subjects with which the movement deals are practically the same from year to year, as in the case of all reforms. But there was also the same interest and earnestness as in previous years. Not only so, but there was a clearly marked increase in confidence, enthusiasm and determination to carry the movement forward to completion with all possible dispatch. Any reactionary and compromising utterance was quickly discountenanced and found no support anywhere. The whole body of delegates from twenty-four countries seemed pecu-

liarily pervaded by the same spirit of high idealism, positive purpose and determination. One could feel the spirit and power of the peace movement, in its present greatness and strength, throbbing in the meetings day after day; and equally so in the public meetings held in different places in the evenings.

One who was present at the former London Peace Congress, eighteen years before, which met in the same hall under the presidency of the distinguished David Dudley Field, could not help noticing the contrast between the two meetings. That early meeting was the second in the modern series of Peace Congresses, the first having been held at Paris the year before, during the Exposition. The men and women who composed the London Congress of 1890 were able and far-seeing,—none more so. Among them were Hodgson Pratt, Frederic Passy, E. T. Moneta and others, since famous for the work which they have done. But they were comparatively few in number and had only a small constituency behind them. Prophets that they were, they uttered their thoughts and set forth their practical ideals in a brave and noble way, but little attention was paid to them, either by the press or the general public. Their purposes were either patronized as beautiful, though unrealizable dreams, or openly scoffed at as chimerical and absurd. No member of the British Cabinet at that time, or of any other Cabinet, would have ventured to show his head inside of a room where a peace meeting was going on.

What enormous progress has been registered in the eighteen years! The peace movement has extended itself to the ends of the earth. The Hague Conferences have been held, and every government on the globe has in some form given its adherence to the great cause. The most prominent feature of the recent Congress was the open and active connection of the British government with it. The reception and welcome given by King Edward and the Queen to a deputation of delegates, including one from each country represented in the Congress, was the first direct official recognition, by the head of one of the Great Powers, of the Peace Congress and its work. The Interparliamentary Union had already been received in the same way by the President of the United States. But the movement on its popular side was this year, for the first time, so recognized. The significance of this recognition cannot be overestimated. It would have been very great in any event, whatever might have been the personal attitude of the